United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1584
16 February 1994

WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Democratic People's Republic of Korea, after months of discussion, agrees to allow inspections requested by IAEA in seven declared nuclear facilities; Secretary-General welcomes agreement as very positive step.

+ UNPROFOR investigative team reports that available physical evidence is insufficient to prove which side fired mortar bomb into Sarajevo market place on 5 February; says either side could have done it.

+ Secretary-General conveys report of Co-Chairmen of Conference on Former Yugoslavia on recent peace talks on Bosnia and Herzegovina; parties agree to United Nations administration of Sarajevo and European Union administration of Mostar, but territorial disputes still persist.

+ New Force Commander of UNOSOM II, Lieutenant-General Aboo Samah Bin Aboo Bakar of Malaysia, says for UNOSOM to fulfill mandate it must have cooperation of Somali people, Security Council and international community.

+ As of 31 January, Member States owe United Nations $2.7 billion -- $1.3 billion for Regular Budget and $1.4 billion for peace-keeping operations; only 21 countries have paid 1994 contributions in full.

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Following discussions held in Vienna during recent months, representatives of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) yesterday informed the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) that the DPRK authorities had agreed to the inspection activities the IAEA has sought to conduct in the country's seven declared nuclear facilities.

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali welcomed the agreement as a very positive step. He said he hoped it would facilitate a dialogue between North and South Korea on the other problems between them and on solving the difficulties in the Korean peninsula. The DPRK's initial refusal to allow the inspections became the subject of intensive discussion between it and Republic of Korea and the United States. The Secretary-General, during his visit last

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December to the two Koreas and Japan and China, discussed the matter with senior government officials in the region.

According to a press release issued by the IAEA yesterday, the aim of the inspections is to verify that nuclear material in the seven facilities has not been diverted since earlier inspections. In additon, the inspectors will take certain measures, such as reloading of cameras and changing of seals, to facilitate future verification. The DPRK representatives conveyed their Government's acceptance of the explanations and clarifications provided by the Agency during the discussions.

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After trying to ascertain who fired a mortar bomb into a crowded Sarajevo market place on 5 February, a United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) investigative team has reported that there was insufficient physical evidence to prove that one party or the other was responsible. According to their report, issued at a press conference in Sarajevo today, either side could have fired it.

The Secretary-General's Special Representative for the former Yugoslavia, Yasushi Akashi, ordered the investigation as a follow-up to the initial effort by the United Nations to determine responsibility for the shelling that killed or wounded between 250 and 275 civilians. Following the incident, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali asked the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) to authorize the use of air strikes against forces that attack Sarajevo, which is one of the United Nations-designated "safe areas".

Having examined the crater caused by the 120 mm mortar bomb, the investigation team found it impossible to accurately estimate the angle of descent. That meant that the distance of the origin of fire from the point of detonation in the crowded square could only be defined as being between 300 and 5,551 metres. The report states that the distance of origin of fire overlaps each side of the confrontation line between the Serb and Muslim forces by 2,000 metres. Both parties were known to have 120 mm mortars and the bombs that go along with them, and the team had no reason to believe that either party lacked access to that type of ammunition.

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The Co-Chairmen of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia have reported to the Secretary-General on areas of agreement and contention between the warring parties in Bosnia and Herzegovina at peace talks held in Geneva between 10 and 12 February. He conveyed their report to the Security Council in a letter dated 14 February 1994 (S/1994/173).

With respect to constitutional arrangements, the Co-Chairmen said all three sides had expressly reiterated their acceptance of a union of three republics having, respectively, a Croat majority, a Muslim majority and a Serb majority. The Bosnian Presidency and the Bosnian Croats reiterated their agreement that Mostar would be placed under the administration of the European

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